

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:

a light source for illuminating an original to be read by the image reading apparatus with a plurality of images recorded on the image to be read~~thereon~~;

conveying means for conveying the original to be read, ~~wherein in such a manner that~~ the plurality of images sequentially come to be located at a predetermined reading position;

an image sensor for separating each image recorded on the original to be read into a plurality of pixels, reading the pixels and outputting image data;

designating means for designating an image to be read among the plurality of images; and

control means for controlling the conveying means; ~~wherein in such a manner that~~ the original to be read is conveyed at a speed greater than or equal to a conveying speed corresponding to a reading speed of the image to be read until a reading start position for the image to be read or a vicinity of the reading start position, which is designated by the designating means, ~~or a vicinity thereof~~ comes to be located at the predetermined reading position, and while the image is being read~~when reading the image to be read~~, the original to be read is conveyed at a conveying speed corresponding to the reading speed for the image to be read.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Attorney Docket No. Q78044

2. (currently amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein a plurality of images to be read are designated by the designating means, and in a case where ~~in reading~~ the images are successively read, reading conditions for ~~at the~~ second one of two adjacent images to be read cannot be set before starting to read the second image to be read, the control means controls the conveying means, wherein ~~in such a manner that~~ the position of the original to be read is returned to a position in which ~~where~~ the reading conditions can be set.

3. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein the reading conditions include the speed at which the conveying means conveys the original to be read.

4. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the original to be read is conveyed at high speed after completion of reading of the image to be read.

5. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein the original to be read is conveyed at high speed after completion of reading of the image to be read.

6. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 3,

wherein the original to be read is conveyed at high speed after completion of reading of the image to be read.

7. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein the reading conditions are set for each of the images to be read.

8. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 3,
wherein the reading conditions are set for each of the images to be read.

9. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 5,
wherein the reading conditions are set for each of the images to be read.

10. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 6,
wherein the reading conditions are set for each of the images to be read.

11. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein the reading conditions are the same for all of the images to be read.

12. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 3,
wherein the reading conditions are the same for all of the images to be read.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Attorney Docket No. Q78044

13. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 5,
wherein the reading conditions are the same for all of the images to be read.

14. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 6,
wherein the reading conditions are the same for all of the images to be read.

15. (currently amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
on the basis of the reading start position for the image to be read, the control means determines
whether or not the original to be read should be conveyed at a speed greater than or equal to a
conveying speed corresponding to the reading speed of the image to be read until the reading
start position for the image to be read or a vicinity of the reading start position ~~is thereof comes to~~
~~be~~ located at the predetermined reading position, and only in a case in which it is determined that
the original to be read should be conveyed at a speed greater than or equal to a conveying speed
corresponding to the reading speed, the control means controls the conveying means to convey
the original to be read at a speed greater than or equal to a conveying speed corresponding to the
reading speed of the image to be read until the reading start position for the image to be read or a
vicinity of the reading start position ~~is thereof comes to be~~ located at the predetermined reading
position.

16. (currently amended) An image reading method comprising the steps of: in which an illuminating an original to be read using the image reading method, on which a plurality of images are recorded, ~~is illuminated with light;~~

conveying the original to be read is conveyed, whereinsuch that the plurality of images are successively positioned at a predetermined reading position;

separating each of the plurality of images ~~is separated~~ into plural pixels;

reading the plural pixels using by an image sensor; and is outputtedoutputting the read plural pixels as image data, ~~said image reading method comprising the steps of:~~

conveying the original to be read at a speed greater than a conveying speed corresponding to a reading speed of an image to be read, which is designated from among the plurality of images recorded on the original to be read, until a reading start position of the image to be read or a vicinity of the reading start position ~~thereof comes to be~~ located at the predetermined reading position; and

effecting control whereinsuch that, at the time of reading the image to be read, the original to be read is conveyed at a conveying speed corresponding to a reading speed of the image to be read.

17. (currently amended) An image reading method according to claim 16, wherein the image to be read comprisesis plural images to be read, and when the plural images to be read are read in succession, conveying of the original to be read is controlled wherein, in a casesuch that, when a reading condition of a later image to be read among adjacent images to be read cannot be

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Attorney Docket No. Q78044

set by the starting of reading of the later image to be read, a position of the original to be read is returned to a position at which setting of the reading condition of the later image to be read is possible.

18. (original) An image reading method according to claim 17, wherein the reading condition of the later image to be read is a conveying speed of the original to be read.

19. (currently amended) An image reading method according to claim 16, wherein on the basis of the reading start position for the image to be read, a determination is made as to whether or not the original to be read should be conveyed at a speed greater than a conveying speed corresponding to the reading speed of the image to be read until the reading start position for the image to be read or a vicinity of the reading start position is~~thereof comes to be~~ located at the predetermined reading position, and only in a case in which it is determined that the original to be read should be conveyed at a speed greater than a conveying speed corresponding to the reading speed, the conveying of the original to be read is controlled wherein~~such that~~ the original to be read is conveyed at a speed greater than a conveying speed corresponding to the reading speed of the image to be read until the reading start position for the image to be read or a vicinity of the reading start position is~~thereof comes to be~~ located at the predetermined reading position.